

JOHN PERHAM.

MARCH 5, 1840.

Read, and laid upon the table.

Mr. STRONG, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of John Perham, beg leave to report:

That it appears from the petition, which is under oath, that the petitioner, on the 11th March, 1812, enlisted into the service of the United States for the term of five years, and that he faithfully served during the said term, at the expiration of which he was honorably discharged; that he was a sergeant during two years or more of his term of service, and a corporal part of the time; that in the fall of 1815, he and four others, pursuant to orders, took General Harrison and another officer in a boat from Detroit to Fort Sandusky, and that on their return they were delayed by a severe storm and head-wind several days, during which they suffered much from cold, hunger, and fatigue; that immediately after his return to Detroit, he was taken with the ague or intermittent fever, and was sick there several weeks, when he was carried to Fort Gratiot, where he was sick a long time; that his ague fits were very severe—more so than usual—and that the disease left him much debilitated and unfit for labor, which disability still continues; that “he has now the effects and symptoms of said disease, which medical treatment cannot remove;” and that he is “the principal part of the time unfit and unable to labor.” He asks a pension.

The affidavits of David Linn and Cyrus Linn, made in November, 1834, confirm the statements of the petitioner as to his service, sickness, continued debility and inability to labor, and discharge; and a subsequent affidavit of David Linn, made in April, 1838, confirms the statements of the petitioner in reference to his being sent to take General Harrison and another officer in a boat to Fort Sandusky, and states that the petitioner started in September, 1815, and returned in a small gun-boat in about three weeks, during which time there were heavy winds and storms; and that he was taken with the fever and ague immediately after his return.

From the affidavits of Richard Clay and Stephen Day, it appears that the petitioner enjoyed good health when he entered the service, and that when he returned from service he had the ague or intermittent fever; that he is now much debilitated, and the principal part of the time unfit and unable to labor.

The affidavits of Peter T. Gray, Peter Morong, and William Cochran, physicians, show that the petitioner is suffering under the effects of fever and ague, and is on that account unfit for much laborious service.

The petitioner and the said David Linn believe the disease of the petitioner was occasioned by the cold, fatigue, and hardships underwent by him on his return from Fort Sandusky to Detroit, and most of the other deponents believe it was contracted while he was in the army.

A copy of the petitioner's discharge shows that the petitioner enlisted on the 11th March, 1812, for five years; that he was discharged on the 11th March, 1817, by reason of his term of enlistment having expired; and that at the time of his discharge he was a sergeant.

The committee are of opinion that the petitioner has not made out a case entitling him to the relief he asks. The proof of exposures and hardships while in the service, from which it is claimed that his sickness at Detroit and Fort Gratiot originated, is not satisfactory; and, taking into consideration the facts that he remained in the service about two years after he was taken sick, and that no mention of his sickness is made in his discharge, they think the connexion between that sickness and his present disability is not clearly established. Besides, the proof as to the extent of his present disability is altogether too indefinite. They recommend, for adoption, the following resolution:

Resolved, That the prayer of the petitioner ought not to be granted.

The affidavits of David Linn and Cyrus Linn, made in November, 1834, confirm the statements of the petitioner as to his service, sickness, continued disability and inability to labor, and discharge; and a subsequent affidavit of David Linn, made in April, 1838, confirms the statements of the petitioner in reference to his being sent to take General Harrison and another officer in a boat to Fort Sandusky, and states that the petitioner arrived in September, 1817, and returned in a small gun-boat in about three weeks, during which time there were heavy winds and storms; and that he was taken with the fever and ague immediately after his return.

From the affidavits of Richard Clark and Stephen Hays it appears that the petitioner enjoyed good health when he entered the service, and that when he returned from service he had the ague or intermittent fever; that he is now much debilitated, and the principal part of the time unfit and unable to labor.